

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-40 are rejected.

Claims 16, 23, 26 and 33 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 15, 25, and 35 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Claim Objections

Claims 23 and 33 were objected to based upon informalities. Claims 23 and 33 have been cancelled, therefore Applicants respectfully request removal of any objections to these claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-40 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-22, 25-32 and 35-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,823,654 to Pastrick et al. (hereafter Pastrick). The Office Action specifically states that the Pastrick reference

Applicants have reviewed the Office Action including the Examiner's response to Applicants' previous arguments, as well as the references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants note that of the rejected claims; claims 1, 15, 25 and 35 are the rejected independent claims. All other claims either depend directly or indirectly upon these independent claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 15, 25 and 35 to define the housing as having an upper wall portion, a lower wall portion, a forwardly facing wall portion, an inner wall portion, and an outer wall portion. Furthermore, all of

these claims have been amended to specify that the modular bezel is connected to the lower wall portion of the housing and that the modular bezel is positioned entirely below the reflective element. Applicants maintain that the Pastrick reference does not contain these features.

Figures 21-23 in Pastrick show how a “security lighting system 25’ includes a light module 104 that is **removably positioned within** housing 34’ of exterior mirror assembly 26’.” Col. 9, lines 20-22 [emphasis added]. Also, “mirror housing 34’ including a downward opening 108 for receiving light module 104.” Col. 9, lines 24-25. Independent claims 1, 15, 25 and 35 all contain the limitations of a housing that has a lower wall portion with a modular bezel connected to the lower wall portion. Furthermore, the modular bezel has been specified as being positioned entirely below the reflective element. This is not shown in Pastrick. The modular bezel 104 is clearly not positioned below the reflective element 28 but extends behind the reflective element. See Fig. 23. Additionally, the modular bezel 104 is not connected to a lower wall portion of the housing, but rather is connected within the interior of the mirror housing 26’ by a clip 43. See Fig. 24. For these reasons Applicants do not believe that each and every element of independent claims 1, 15, 25 and 35 are anticipated by the Pastrick reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests removal of the rejection of these independent claims. With regard to the rejection of dependent claims 2-14, 16-22, 26-32, and 36-40, Applicants point out that these claims contain all the limitations of the respective independent claims, discussed above. It is submitted that the amendments to claims 1, 15, 25 and 35 overcome the Office Action’s rejection, therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejections for these dependent claims which contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims.

Rejection of Claims 23, 24, 33 and 34 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

With regard to the rejection of claims 23 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,654 to Pastrick et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,938,322 to Alonzo, Jr. et al. Applicants have cancelled claims 23 and 33, therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 24 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,654 to Pastrick et al. (hereafter Pastrick) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,331,066 to Desmond et al. (hereafter Desmond).

The Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 24 and 34. The Office Action states:

Claims 24 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pastrick et al '654 in view of Desmond et al. Pastrick et al '654 discloses the claimed invention except for the teaching of a threaded fastener for attaching the light module to a bezel. Pastrick et al '654 doesn't mention the type of fasteners used to hold the module to bezel 116, but does indicate at column 11, line 67- column 12, lines 1-4 that when the cover member 160 and optical surface engage with flange 146 to create a water-tight engagement. Desmond teaches a clip-type fastener 66 for attaching lamp module 40 to a bezel. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the light module of Pastrick et al so as to include a threaded fastener as taught by Desmond et al in order to provide an effective means for attaching the light module to the bezel.

Applicants point out that claim 24 incorporates all of the elements found in claim 15. Claim 34 incorporates all of the elements of claims 32 and 25. Thus the proposed combination of references must render all of the limitations of claims 24 and 34 obvious in order for the rejection to be maintained. Applicants maintain that Pastrick being taken in view of Desmond does not render the present invention obvious.

Claims 24 and 34 include a housing having a lower wall portion with a modular bezel connected to the lower wall portion. Furthermore, these claims include the limitation of the modular bezel being positioned entirely below the reflective element. Pastrick does not teach or suggest any of these limitations. In figure 21-23, Pastrick teaches how a "mirror housing 34' includes a downward opening 108 for receiving light module 104." Col. 9, lines 24-25. This does not teach or suggest a modular bezel being connected to a lower wall portion of the housing, nor does this teach or suggest the modular bezel being positioned entirely below the reflective element. Applicants maintain that Desmond does not resolve the deficiencies of Pastrick mentioned above. Desmond teaches or suggests a mirror assembly comprising a "mirror case 11 having a front bezel 12 and a reflective element 100 secured together in a conventional manner." Col. 4, lines 2-4. "The bottom of the case 11 is formed with recesses 46, 47 for receiving reflector members 40, 41, respectively." Col. 5, lines 1-3. There is nothing in Desmond that teaches or suggests a modular bezel being connected to a lower wall portion of a housing. Additionally, there is nothing that teaches or suggests the modular bezel being positioned entirely below the reflective element. For these reasons the combination of Pastrick in view of Desmond will not render claims 24 and 34 obvious, therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection of dependent claims 24 and 34.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks claims 1-15, 17-22, 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-40 as presented, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do

not anticipate or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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